

NOMIOIDES SCHENCK, 1866: PROPOSED DESIGNATION
OF TYPE SPECIES (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA,
HALICTIDAE). Z.N.(S.) 2178

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1. Schenck, 1866, p. 333, established a new genus *Nomioides* for one species, *Andrena pulchella* Jurine, 1807 (with *Apis parvula* Fabricius, 1798 cited in synonymy). There was no redescription of the species but a reference was given to a previous good description of *A. pulchella* by Schenck, 1859, p. 295).

2. It was shown by Mocsáry, 1879, p. 30, and accepted by Handlirsch, 1888, pp. 398-399 and Blüthgen, 1925, p. 7, that Schenck, 1859, has misidentified *Andrena pulchella*. *Nomioides pulchellus* Jurine sensu Schenck, 1859, 1866, non Jurine, 1807, is identical with *Apis minutissima* Rossi, 1790, p. 109, while *Andrena pulchella* Jurine, 1807 is a junior synonym of *Andrena variegata* Olivier, 1789, p. 139, now *Nomioides variegatus*. The identity of *Apis parvula* Fabricius is doubtful; it is most probably a synonym of *Nomioides minutissimus* (Rossi) or of some other related species.

3. As Schenck misidentified the type species of his new genus, the type species should be designated by the Commission (Code, Art. 70a).

4. Sandhouse, 1943, p. 578, and Michener, 1965, p. 183, 1978, p. 504, indicated as type species of *Nomioides* '*Andrena pulchella* Jurine, 1807 = *Apis minutissima* Rossi, 1790', but this synonymy is wrong (see above). No other citations of the type species of *Nomioides* are known to us.

5. It is evident that *A. minutissima* Rossi (= *N. pulchella* sensu Schenck), i.e. the species actually before Schenck, and not *A. pulchella* Jurine, i.e. the species named by Schenck, is understood as type species by all later authors. For example, Blüthgen, 1925, p.4, distinguished the *N. minutissima* group which was later treated by Cockerell, 1935, p. 90, and Blüthgen, 1937, p. 3, as the subgenus *Nomioides* s.str., while Blüthgen, 1937, p. 3, named the *N. variegata* group as the subgenus *Eunomioides*. Therefore designation of *Apis minutissima* as type species of *Nomioides* seems to be the best solution.

6. An additional problem is the gender of the name *Nomioides*. As indicated by Blüthgen, 1925, p. 6, Schenck, Handlirsch, Morawitz and Margetti used the name as feminine, and Mocsáry, Friese, Cockerell, Alfken, Gribodo and Debski as masculine, while if we consider the origin of *-ides* from the Greek *eidōs*, the name would be neuter. In the International Code of

Botanical Nomenclature the names ending in *-oides* are regarded as feminine (Recommendation 75A(4)) while in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature such names are cited as examples of masculine (Art. 30a(ii)). Blüthgen, 1925, accepted the gender as feminine following Schenck's original view, and this gender was used by all subsequent authors. If we change the gender to masculine according to the Zoological Code, the endings of 135 available specific names in *Nomioides* must be changed. However, we consider that an exception from the Code is not warranted.

7. *Nomioides* is accepted as distinct by all modern workers. It includes 65 species which are distributed in all the Old World except the northern part of the Palaearctic.

8. In accordance with the above, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Nomioides* Schenck made prior to the ruling now asked for, and having done so, to designate *Apis minutissima* Rossi, 1790, as type species of this genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Nomioides* Schenck, 1866 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in 1 above, *Apis minutissima* Rossi, 1790, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *minutissima* Rossi, 1790 as published in the binomen *Apis minutissima* (specific name of type species of *Nomioides* Schenck, 1866) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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